

# ExoExplorers Introduction

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# Motivation and Inception

- **Visibility:** The COVID-19 pandemic has limited opportunities for early career scientists to promote their work and interface with the larger community. Aim to create an internal and external network for early career scientists.
- **Inclusion:** We want to amplify early career scientists, especially those in underserved/underrepresented communities
  - Inclusion is one of NASA's core values
- **Science:** Use the framework of the ExEP Science Gap List to serve as a touchstone for science talks.



***Program serves broader exoplanet community, enabled by support from ExEP and ExoPAG***





# Motivation and Inception

- **Main goal throughout:** Enable contact between our early career cohort and exoplanet scientists in the community
- **Core team:**
  - *Steering Committee (SC)* – consists of current/former members of the ExoPAG EC that shape selection criteria, evaluate the ExoExplorer applications and make recommendations for selection
  - *Organizing Committee (OC)* – coordinates logistics (WebEx meetings, surveys, emails, etc)
- **Careful discussions about recruitment, advertising and evaluation**
  - Aim for broad recruitment and advertisement
  - Include applicants not only in pure research, but also developing technology that enables science
  - Ensure call for applications traces well to selection criteria/rubric
  - All cohort applicants can schedule a 30-min debrief on their application upon request

# ExoExplorers Steering Committee and Organizing Committee

## Steering Committee (SC)

Tiffany Kataria  
(Chair, JPL)



Jessie Christiansen  
(Caltech/IPAC)



Natasha Batalha  
(NASA ARC)



Knicole Colon  
(GSFC)



## Organizing Committee (OC)

Vanessa Bailey  
(Chair, JPL)



Jennifer Burt  
(JPL)



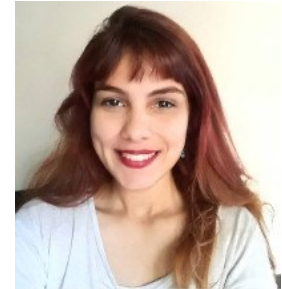
Marie Ygouf  
(JPL)



Robert Zellem  
(JPL)



Raissa Estrela  
(JPL)





# Components of ExoExplorers Program

## 1. Speaker Series

- ExoExplorer talks
  - **First talk of 2022 cohort: Fri Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 at 11am PDT/2pm EDT**
- 1-1 meetings with prominent scientists of their choosing
- ExoGuide talks and informal discussions with ExoExplorers
- ExoExplorer and ExoGuide talks are recorded and posted to the website:  
<https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-presentations/>

## 2. Professional Development Activities

- Professional development workshops recommended by the cohort

## 3. Building an Internal Network

- Forums for regular interaction (Slack, coffee/social hours)





# Updates for 2022 cohort

- Expanding program to international ExoExplorers and ExoGuides
  - As a result, expanding cohort to maximum 12 participants
  - **2022 ExoExplorer applicants:** 65 total applications, 12 selected (1 international)
  - **2022 ExoGuide applicants:** 10 applications, 4 selected (1 international)
- Debrief with 2021 cohort yielded important lessons learned
  - More back and forth engagement between cohort/core team and cohort/ExoGuides
    - We should be learning from them as much as they are learning from us
  - Eventually adding in-person, live component

# 2022 ExoExplorers cohort

Meet the ExoExplorers: <https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-2021/>

Munazza Alam  
(Carnegie EPL)



Aida Behmard  
(Caltech)



Kiersten Boley  
(OSU)



Aarynn Carter  
(UCSC)



Quadry Chance  
(Univ. of Florida)



Matthew Clement  
(Carnegie EPL)



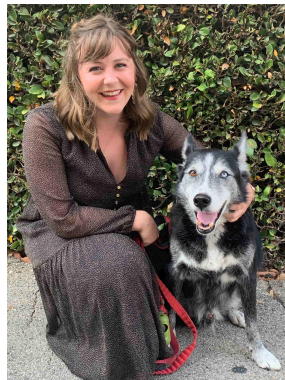
Leonardo dos Santos  
(STScI)



Alison Farrish  
(GSFC)



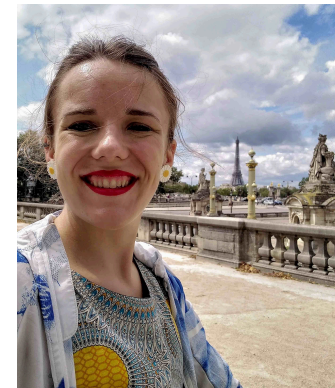
Briley Lewis  
(UCLA)



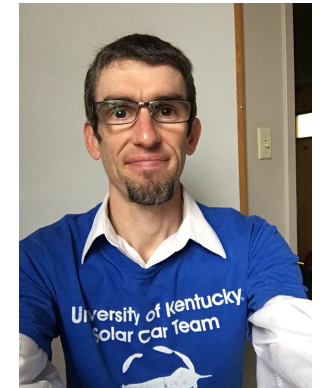
Romy Rodriguez  
(OSU)



Julia Seidel  
(ESO/Chile)



Eckhart Spalding  
(Notre Dame)





# 2022 ExoGuides

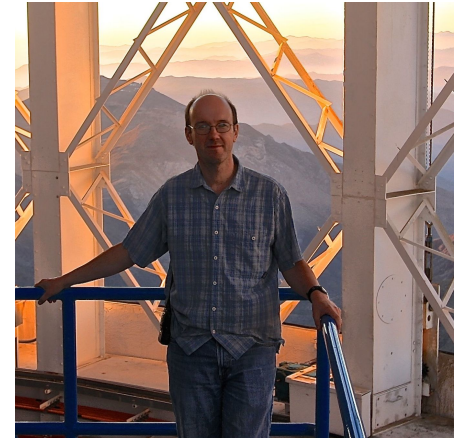
ExoGuides: Prominent exoplanet scientists that engage with cohort

Meet the ExoGuides: <https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-exoguides/>

José Caballero  
(Spanish  
Centro de  
Astrobiología)



Bruce Macintosh  
(Stanford  
University)



Elisa Quintana  
(NASA GSFC)



Sarah Rugheimer  
(Oxford University)





# Program metrics for success

## Within cohort

- We sent each ExoExplorer two anonymous surveys
  - **At the beginning of program:** Conduct self assessment, solicit their goals, poll their interests for professional development
  - **At the end of the program:** Allow them to re-evaluate and provide feedback on program activities

## Within exoplanet community

- 50-100 attendees for each set of ExoExplorer talks
- NExSci tweet tracking
  - 8,000-50,000 Impressions (Total # of times tweets were displayed/delivered in timeline or search result)
  - 50-500 Total Engagements (media engagements, detail expands, likes, retweets, link clicks, profile clicks)

What is your level in comfort in introducing yourself in a networking sense, from 1 to 6, with 1 being not at all comfortable and 6 being very comfortable?

1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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How would you rate your ability to motivate the importance of your work in exoplanet science from 1 to 6, with 1 being not very capable and 6 being very capable?

1	2	3	4	5	6
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

NASA Exoplanet Archive @NASAExoArchive · Jun 9

The FINAL talk in the inaugural #ExoExplorers Science Series is this Friday, 6/11! Join Eileen Gonzales/@Cornell & Kaitlin Rasmussen/@UMich as they present on brown dwarfs and the Drake equation. The virtual talk is open to the exoplanet science community. [go.nasa.gov/3wI5NUE](https://go.nasa.gov/3wI5NUE)





# 2022 ExoExplorers Talk Schedule

**First ExoExplorers 2022 talks: Jan 11, 2022 at 11am PDT/2pm EDT**

## NASA EXOEXPLORERS SCIENCE SERIES 2022



Full abstracts on  
ExoExplorers  
website



**Munazza Alam**

Carnegie Institution of Washington

The First Near-Infrared Transmission Spectrum of HIP 41378 f,  
a Low-Mass Temperate Jovian World in a Multi-Planet System

**January 21  
11am PDT**

**Matt Clement**

Carnegie Institution of Washington

Solar and extra-solar terrestrial planet formation:  
The bleak prospects for habitability around the smallest stars

More information: <https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/>

Other ExoExplorer talk dates:  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month at  
11am PT/2pm ET:**

- **Feb 18<sup>th</sup>:** Leonardo dos Santos and Quadry Chance
- **March 18<sup>th</sup>:** Romy Rodriguez Martinez and Eckhart Spalding
- **April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Julia Seidel and Briley Lewis
- **May 20<sup>th</sup>:** Alison Farrish and Kiersten Boley
- **June 17<sup>th</sup>:** Aarynn Carter and Aida Behmard



# Save the date: AAS Special Session

2021 Cohort independently organized a AAS Special Session entitled “The ExoExplorers: Early-Career Perspectives on the Intersection of Exoplanet Science and DEI in Astronomy”

~~Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday January 11 at 2-3:30pm~~

**Will be postponed to 241st AAS Meeting, 8–12 January 2023,  
Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, WA**



# Soliciting broader community feedback

- Anonymous feedback form
  - <https://forms.gle/DQ3er5bZnaPYhRhZ8>



All feedback is welcome!



# Thank you

- Thank you to ExEP, ExoPAG, and NASA HQ for continued support
- Thanks to the SC and OC for their hard work for another exciting year
- And thanks to all of you for your attendance and participation!

Any questions? Email [exoexplorers\\_questions@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:exoexplorers_questions@jpl.nasa.gov)

**Sign up for ExoExplorers announcements here:**

<https://exoplanets.nasa.gov/exep/exopag/exoexplorers/exoexplorers-announcements/>